

We claim:

1. A method for making a wound dressing including an absorbent core and an elastomeric gel facing layer adhered thereto, said method including the steps of:

depositing uncured elastomeric gel onto a perforation device to form a discrete layer of elastomeric gel thereon;

curing the elastomeric gel layer to a partially cured state; and

applying the absorbent core to a surface of the partially cured elastomeric gel layer.

2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of forming a plurality of apertures in the elastomeric gel layer prior to applying the elastomeric gel layer to the absorbent core.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the perforation device includes a plurality of perforating elements defined in a pattern, the perforating elements forming a plurality of apertures in the elastomeric gel layer.

4. The method according to claim 3, further comprising the step of heating the carrier surface and the perforating elements prior to depositing the elastomeric gel onto the carrier surface.

5. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of maintaining the heat of the perforation device when the absorbent core is applied onto the partially cured elastomeric gel layer.

6. The method according to claim 5, further comprising the step of exerting pressure onto a surface of the absorbent core opposite the surface in contact with the elastomeric gel layer.

7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the partially cured elastomeric gel layer is a cross-linked silicone.

8. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of forming a plurality of apertures in the elastomeric gel layer with a plurality of

perforating elements after the partially cured elastomeric gel layer has been applied to the absorbent core.

9. The method according to claim 8, further comprising the step of fully curing the elastomeric gel layer after the plurality of apertures have been formed.

10. The method according to claim 1, wherein a silicone primer is applied to the absorbent core before application thereof to the elastomeric gel layer.

11. The method according to claim 1, wherein the perforation device includes a generally planar surface with a plurality of discrete perforating elements extending therefrom wherein the perforating elements extend through the uncured elastomeric gel layer.

12. The method according to claim 11, wherein the perforating elements are heated and maintained at a suitable temperature for forming apertures in the elastomeric gel layer.

13. The method according to claim 3, wherein the perforating elements are arranged in a predetermined pattern.

14. The method according to claim 3, wherein the perforating elements have a cross-section shape selected from the group consisting of circular, square, triangular, elliptical, rectilinear and combinations thereof.

15. A method for making a wound dressing including an elastomeric gel layer and an absorbent core, said method including the steps of:

depositing uncured elastomeric gel onto a carrier surface to form a discrete layer of elastomeric gel thereon;

curing the elastomeric gel layer to a partially cured state;

rotating a roller device having a plurality of perforating elements onto the elastomeric gel layer to form a plurality of apertures arranged in a pattern; and

applying an absorbent core to a partially cured surface of the

elastomeric gel layer.

16. The method according to claim 15, wherein the absorbent core is applied to the elastomeric gel layer after the plurality of apertures are formed therein.

17. A method for making a wound dressing including an elastomeric facing layer and an absorbent core using a perforation device having a plurality of holes and a plurality of discrete perforating elements slidably disposed in the holes thereof, the perforating elements being slidable through the holes to extend from a generally planar surface of the perforation device, the method comprising:

heating the planar surface of the perforation device;

placing a layer of uncured elastomeric gel on the planar surface of the perforation device;

driving the perforating elements through the elastomeric gel layer;

withdrawing the perforating elements from the elastomeric gel layer when at least a surface thereof located adjacent the planar surface of the perforation device has at least partially cured; and

applying an absorbent core along a surface of the elastomeric gel layer opposite the surface adjacent the planar surface of the perforation device.

18. The method according to claim 17, wherein the perforating elements are arranged in a predetermined pattern.

19. The method according to claim 17, wherein the perforating elements have a cross-section shape selected from the group consisting of circular, square, triangular, elliptical, rectilinear and combinations thereof.

20. The method according to claim 17, wherein the perforating elements are heated prior to being driven through the elastomeric gel layer.